The practice of untouchability in any form has been abolished under Article 17 of the Constitution of India. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 prescribes punishment for the preaching and practice of untouchability. Since State Governments/Union Territory Administration are implementing the Act, suitable advisories are issued to them from time to time to implement the Act in letter and spirit. Besides central assistance is also released to them for measures taken towards effective implementation of the Act.

Reservation in multinational and private companies

2071. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would insist on the multinational companies and other private institutions to follow the reservation policies in employment and promotions of jobs; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to make reservation in such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation, in private sector. The dialogue initiated by the GoM with the apex associations of industry and trade to see how best the private sector can fulfill the aspirations of the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is in progress.

Special teachers for mentally and physically challenged children

2072. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to meet the requirements of special teachers for the mentally and physically challenged children;

(b) the details of all such teacher's training institutions run by his Ministry;

(c) the budget for these institutions; and

(d) the details of the NGO's involved in giving training to such teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) has approved 56 courses which are run by 200 recognized institutions for training of special teachers.